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54. Production method of protein

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Specification

1. Title of Invention

Production method of protein

2. Claim

Claim 1 A method of producing protein characterised in that Chinese hamster ovary cells or human hepatic cells, transformed by DNA containing

structural genes that code protein, are cultured, the said structural genes expressed and the said protein produced; and in that the said cell culture is performed in a non-serum or low-serum culture medium and in the presence of a Cl-inhibitor or a Cl-inhibitor-type protease inhibitor.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

(Field of utility)

The present invention relates to a method in which a transformant that has Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells or human hepatic cells as host cells, is cultured in a non-serum or low-serum culture medium in order to produce the target protein.

(Prior art and problems the invention aims to solve)

In recent years, there has been increasing use of methods in which proteins are obtained by culturing transformants obtained by introducing foreign structural genes into host cells by recombinant DNA techniques, and expressing these genes. When the structural genes are derived from animals it has been increasingly common for animal cells to be used as the host cells, in order to obtain proteins close to natural proteins.

In the prior art, when target substances are obtained from animal cell cultures, the method generally used is one in which the culture is halted at a stage at which the cells are still multiplying and the target substance is obtained from the culture.

For this, approximately 5~10% serum, which is necessary for the proliferation of the animal cells, is added empirically to the culture solution. Therefore, there is an admixture of protein derived from the serum in the culture medium and this leads to the necessity of purifying the target protein, which may take time and trouble.

The present inventors attempted to produce the target substance by cultivating it with CHO cells and human hepatic cells as host cells in a non-serum or low-serum culture medium.

However, it was found that when these were cultured for a fixed time, the production of the target substance decreased chronically. In the present inventors' experience, one cause of this is that the target protein is decomposed by serine proteases and/or other protease secreted by the host cells or proteases emitted by dead cells.

(Means by which the problems were solved)

Accordingly, the present inventors tried a method of culture in the presence of various protease inhibitors and, as a result, it was found that the objects of the invention were attained when the culture was performed in the presence

of, specifically, a Cl-inhibitor [Methods in Enzymol. 80, 43~45 (1981)] and the present invention was completed on the basis of this discovery.

Thus, in essence, the invention is a method of producing protein characterised in that Chinese hamster ovary cells or human hepatic cells, transformed by the introduction of DNA containing structural genes that code protein, are cultured, the said structural genes expressed and the said protein produced; and in that the said cell culture is performed in a non-serum culture medium or low-concentration serum culture medium and in the presence of a Cl-inhibitor or a Cl-inhibitor-type protease inhibitor.

In the descriptions of the present invention, the host cells used are Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells or human hepatic cells and these may be of any generally known strains. These may be, for example, a CHO-derived variant (*Tanpakushissankoso* [Protein Nuclease], 27, 54~62 (1982)] such as CHO K₁ [J. Exp. Med., 108, 945 (1958)], CHO dhfr⁻ (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 77, 4216~4220 (1980)], or cells strains derived from human liver (or tumour) such as NuE, KN (Can. Res., 49,

361~366 (1989)], PLC [South Africa Med., 50, 2124~2128 (1976)] and HepG2 (ATCC cat. No. HB 8065).

There is no particular limitation to the transformation of the host cells according to the invention; DNA containing the target structural genes may be inserted into the host cells using conventional recombinant DNA techniques or cell fusion methods.

The said structural genes may be a gene such as apolipoprotein E with an amino acid series degraded by serine protease or the genes of complement components such as C₁₇, C₁₈, C₄ and C₈ are particularly effective in use and, in addition, human plasma proteins, protein hormones, growth factor, virus antigens and receptors etc can be used for the expression of various genes.

The expression vector obtained by combining the said structural genes with, for example, plasmid pKCHR2 (JP 61-285990 (B)) may be introduced by conventional methods into host cells, or by fusing human hepatic cell strains or hamster-derived cell strains with different animal cells, particularly human organ cells, which contain the target structural gene, by conventional methods and thus to transform them by

the introduction of the target gene present in the organ.

The culture of the transformant thus obtained should be in a basic synthetic culture medium containing the nutrients necessary for the survival of the CHO cells or human hepatic cells and the culture is carried out in the presence of a specific protease inhibitor, specifically, a Cl inhibitor or a Cl-inhibitor-like protease inhibitor.

The basic synthetic culture medium used in the method according to the invention should principally comprise amino acid(s), sugar(s), vitamin(s), and inorganic salt(s) and also contain nucleic acids, coenzymes and protein hydrolytes. Specifically, these may include eRDF (Kyokuto Co.), Han's F10, F12, F12-M, F12-K; Puck 10-10, 5-10; RPMI 1603, 1630, 1634, 1640; Swim 67-G; Trowell T8; Shneider; MB 752/1, 705; William D. E; Fisher; NCTC 135; OMRL 1066; A₂+ADG; IMDM; DME; L-10, -15; McCoy 5a; 199; MEM; BMEM; α - MEM (all the above from Gibco); and lactalbumin hydrolite (Sigma).

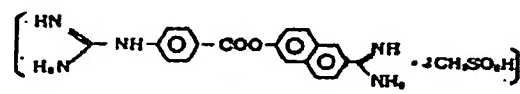
The protease inhibitor used in the method according to the invention may be, for example Cl-inhibitor or Cl-inhibitor-like protease inhibitor. This

may be, for example, (a) a protease inhibitor derived from foetal bovine serum i.e. a protein present in foetal bovine serum normally at a concentration of 50~100 mg/L, the molecular weight of which, by SDS-PAGE (SDS - polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) is 75K (reduced), the unreduced molecular weight of which is 85K and which shows a positive PAS (periodic acid-Schiff) reaction; and in which the amino acid sequence at the N-terminal is N-Asp · Met · Ile · Val · Gly · Pro · Gly · Pro · Gly · Asp · Gly · Gln · Ser (this protease inhibitor can be purified from foetal bovine serum. This may be, for example by a method in which foetal bovine serum is salted out by a 40~60% saturated ammonium sulphate solution and then this is equilibrated with two-fold diluted Dulbecco's PBS (phosphate buffer salt solution; PBS) and then adsorbed onto a heparin sepharose column or similar product; then it is washed with the same half-concentration PBS and eluted with PBS. Next, the PBS elution fraction is applied to a hydroxyapatite column and eluted at conductivity 2.2 mho using a gradient of 10mM phosphate buffer 50mM sodium chloride to 300 mM

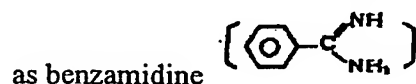
phosphate buffer 50mM sodium chloride.

Also it is eluted as the first peak by elution fractionation using a phenyl sepharose column with a gradient of 1M ammonium phosphate 10mM phosphate buffer to 10mM phosphate buffer. At this stage, it is purified by SDS-PAGE to a single band. It is thus possible to obtain a yield of at least several hundreds of μg of the pure product from 1 litre of foetal bovine serum.

The protease inhibitor used in the present invention may be a partially purified product such as, for example, one that has been purified using a heparin sepharose column.], (b) a bovine serum-derived CI inhibitor-like protease inhibitor [obtained by the method described in *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 923, 167~175 (1987)], (c) bovine serum-derived Factor XIIa inhibitor [obtained by the method described in *J. Biol. Chem.*, 262, 12714~12721 (1987)], (d) human CI-inhibitor inhibitor [obtained by the method described in *J. Clin. Invest.*, 55, 593~604 (1975)] or other protein protease inhibitors; or (e) 6-amidino-2-naphthyl-p-guanidinobenzoate dimethanesulphonate (nafamostat mesilate)



or (f) a synthetic protease inhibitor such



as benzamidine

The above protease inhibitors differ in use depending on the type of protease inhibitor; for example, when the protein protease inhibitors listed as (a)~(d) above are used, these should be used in a range 10~1,000 ng/ml in the culture medium; in the cases of the synthetic protease inhibitors described as (e) and (f) above, these should be used in the ranges 0.1~1mM and 2~5mM, respectively, in the culture medium.

In the present invention, serum such as foetal bovine serum and neonate bovine serum may be added to the culture medium, provided that the quantity added, e.g. no more than 0.5%, has no effect on the purification of the target protein.

The culture may be carried out either in an adhered state or in a floating state, and the system used may involve a petri dish or a flask and also stirred culture, airlift culture, fixed bed culture devices, fluidised bed culture devices, hollow fibre, micro-carrier and microcapsule cultures.

The number of cells applied at the start of the culture should be at least approximately 10^4 cells/ml and the culture should be carried out at a temperature around 37°C and in a 5% CO_2 atmosphere. The culture should be continued for an optional time from when the cells are added, and then, at the time when normal confluence has been reached, the culture medium should be replaced by the culture medium containing protease inhibitor according to the invention and the culture continued to obtain the target protein. This culture is continued until the target protein has become maximum size as an intact material.

The purification of the target protein from the culture solution thus obtained may be carried out by conventional methods such as salting out, ion-exchange chromatography, hydrophobic chromatography, gel filtration, affinity chromatography, liquid stratification, isoelectric precipitation, isoelectric electrophoresis, hydroxyapatite chromatography, reverse-phase chromatography, according to suitability.

(Effects of the invention)

When the method according to the invention is used, since the target protein in the culture is not degraded, the productivity is improved (and the culture medium effectiveness is improved) and, moreover, since there is a negligible content of protein impurities derived from the serum and degradation products of the target proteins, the purification of the target protein is more readily performed.

(Examples)

Below the method according to the invention is described in greater detail through examples.

Example 1

Apolipoprotein-producing recombinant CHO cells (5×10^4 cells/ml), produced by the method described in JP 61-285990, was cultured and proliferated in 5ml of e-RDF (pH 7.4), containing 5% bovine serum, in a 5% CO_2 atmosphere at 37°C . After approximately 5 days of this culture, when confluence was reached, the cells were transferred to 5ml of an e-RDF culture medium (pH 7.4 ± 0.2), a non-serum culture medium containing protease inhibitors. Then the culture was continued and the quantity of apolipoprotein produced over time was measured. The results are shown in

Figure 1 (the quantity of apolipoprotein E produced was investigated using the method described in Example 1 of JP 61-285990 (A) and SDS-PAGE.

As is clear from Figure 1, when the method according to the invention is used, the production of apolipoprotein is increased due to the culture being performed in a culture medium containing a protease inhibitor.

Simple Description of the Figure

Figure 1 shows the changes over time of the quantity of apolipoprotein E produced during a culture of apolipoprotein-producing recombinant CHO cells in a culture medium containing protease inhibitor. The symbols in the figures have the following meanings.

O--O: no protease inhibitor added (control)

Δ--Δ: foetal bovine serum-derived protease inhibitor (as in (a) above) 150ng/ml.

□--□: foetal bovine serum-derived protease inhibitor (as in (a) above) 250ng/ml.

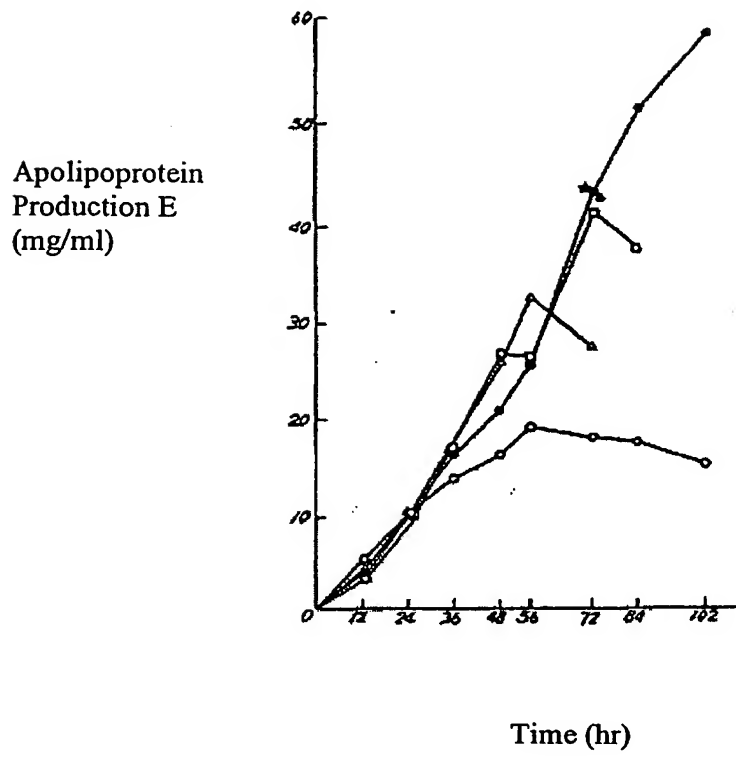
●--●: as above, 500ng/ml

▲ : benzamidine 3mM

⊕ : Nafasmat mesilate 0.11mM

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Figure 1



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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全5頁)

⑮ 発明の名称 蛋白質の産生方法

⑯ 特 願 平1-42166

⑰ 出 願 平1(1989)2月22日

特許法第30条第1項適用 平成元年2月15日 社団法人日本農芸化学会発行の「日本農芸化学会誌
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明 細 書

1 発明の名称

蛋白質の産生方法

2 特許請求の範囲

- (i) 蛋白質をコードする構造遺伝子を含むDNAで形質転換されたチャイニーズハムスター卵巣細胞又はヒト肝細胞を培養して該構造遺伝子を発現させ、該蛋白質を産生させる方法において、細胞培養を無血清地又は低濃度血清培地中、C/インヒビター又はC/インヒビター様プロテアーゼ阻害剤の存在下に行うことを特徴とする蛋白質の産生方法。

3 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、チャイニーズハムスター卵巣(CHO)細胞またはヒト肝細胞を宿主細胞とする形質転換体は無血清或いは低濃度血清培地中で培養して、目的とする蛋白質を産生する方法に関するものである。

(従来の技術及び発明が解決しようとする問題点)

近年、組換えDNA含有細胞や細胞融合体等のような、組換えDNA技術により外来の構造遺伝子を宿主細胞に導入して得られる形質転換体を培養して、該構造遺伝子を発現させ蛋白質を産生させる方法が実施されている。そして、構造遺伝子が動物由来のものである場合、天然により近い蛋白質を得るために宿主細胞として動物細胞を使用する例が増えている。

従来、動物細胞培養物から目的物を取得する場合、動物細胞の増殖が未だ行われている段階で培養を止めて、得られる培養物から目的物を取得する方法が一般的である。

そのため、培養液中には動物細胞の増殖に必要な血清が約5~10%程度経験的に添加されている。従って、培養物中には血清由来の蛋白質が混在することとなり、目的とする蛋白質を精製するのに手間がかかるという問題点があった。

本発明者らは、CHO細胞及びヒト肝細胞を宿主細胞として無血清培地或いは低濃度血清培

地で培養して目的物を産生させることを試みた。しかしながら、一定時間培養を行うと、経時的に目的物の生産量が減少した。本発明者らの検討によれば、それは宿主細胞由来のセリンプロテアーゼ等の分泌プロテアーゼ又は死細胞より漏出したプロテアーゼ等によって目的蛋白質が分解されることがその一因であることが分った。(問題点を解決するための手段)

そこで、本発明者らは、種々のプロテアーゼ阻害剤を存在させて培養する方法を種々検討した結果、特定の所謂C/インヒビター(Methods Enzymol., (メソッドズ イン エンザイモロジー), 80, 43-45 (1981))を存在させることによって所期の目的が達成されることを知得し、本発明を完成するに至った。

即ち、本発明の要旨は、蛋白質をコードする構造遺伝子を含むDNAを導入して形質転換されたチャイニーズハムスター卵巣細胞又はヒト肝細胞を培養して該構造遺伝子を発現させ、該蛋白質を産生させる方法において、細胞培養を

8065)等が挙げられる。

本発明の宿主細胞を形質転換する方法は特に制限されるものでなく、公知の組換えDNA技術或いは細胞融合法により、目的の構造遺伝子を含むDNAを宿主細胞中に導入することができる。

該構造遺伝子としては、セリンプロテアーゼで分解されるアミノ酸配列を有するアポリポ蛋白質E等の遺伝子、或いはC_{1r}、C_{1s}、C_{1i}、C₂等の各補体成分等の遺伝子を特に有利に使用し得るが、その他ヒト血漿蛋白質、各種蛋白性ホルモン、成長因子、ウイルス抗原、リセプター等の公知の種々の遺伝子発現にも使用することができる。

上記構造遺伝子を、例えば、プラスミドpKCRH2〔特開昭61-285990号公報〕等に組込んで得られる発現ベクターを、常法に従って宿主細胞に導入したり、或いはヒト肝細胞株又はハムスター由来細胞株と目的とする遺伝子を含む異種動物細胞、特にヒトの各臓器の

無血清培地又は低濃度血清培地中、C/インヒビター又はC/インヒビター様プロテアーゼ阻害剤の存在下に行うことを特徴とする蛋白質の産生方法に存する。

以下本発明を説明するに、本発明で使用する宿主細胞は、チャイニーズハムスター卵巣(CHO)細胞又はヒト肝細胞であり、それらの公知のいずれの細胞株も使用することができる。具体的には、例えば、CHO K1(J. Exp. Med., (ジャーナル オブ イクスペリメンタル メディシン), 108, 945 (1958)), CHO dhfr⁻(Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (プロシーディングス オブ ナショナル アカデミー オブ サイエンシズ オブ ユーエスエー), 77, 4216-4220 (1980))を代表とするCHO由来変異株〔蛋白質核酸酵素, 27, 54-62 (1982)〕、ヒト肝(癌)由来細胞株NuE, KN(Can. Res., (キャンサー リサーチ), 49, 361-366 (1989)), PLC(South Afr. Med., 50, 2124-2128 (1976)), HepG2(ATCC cat. No. HB

細胞を常法に従って融合することによって、その各臓器に存在する目的遺伝子を導入して形質転換する。

上記の様にして得られる形質転換体の培養は、CHO細胞又はヒト肝細胞の生存維持に必要な栄養分を含む基本合成培地中で、特定のプロテアーゼ阻害剤、即ち、C/インヒビター又はC/インヒビター様プロテアーゼ阻害剤の存在下に行う。

基本合成培地としては、アミノ酸、糖類、ビタミン類、無機塩類を主成分とし、その他各種核酸、補酵素、蛋白質加水分解物等を含む培地で、具体的には、例えばeRDF(極東製薬社製): Han's F10, F12, F12-M, F12K; Puck 10-10, 5-10; RPMI 1603, 1630, 1634, 1640; Swim 67-G; Trowell T8; Schneider; MB752/1, 705; William D, E; Fisher; NCTC/35; CMRL 1066; A₂+ADG; IMDM; DME; L-10, -15; McCoy 5a; 199; MEM; BMEM; α-

ラスコを用いた培養から、攪はん培養、エアリフト培養、固定床培養装置、流動床培養装置、ホローファイバー、マイクロキャリアー、マイクロカプセル培養等いずれの装置を用いても良い。

培養開始時の播き込み細胞数を約 10^4 cells/ml以上とし、37℃前後で5%CO₂雰囲気下に培養を行う。播き込み後任意の時間まで増殖させた後、通常コンフルエントな状態になった時期に、本発明のプロテアーゼ阻害剤を含む培地に換えて更に培養を続けると、目的蛋白質が得られる。培養は目的蛋白質がインタクトな状態の物質として最大となる時期まで続ける。

かくして得られる培養液からの目的の蛋白質の精製は、常法に従い、塩析、イオン交換クロマトグラフィー、疎水クロマトグラフィー、ゲル濾過、アフィニティークロマトグラフィー、液層分配、等電点沈殿、等電点電気泳動、ハイドロキシパタイトクロマトグラフィー、逆相クロマトグラフィー等を適宜組合せて行えばよ

培養を続け、培養時間に対するアポリボプロテインEの生産量を測定した。その結果を第1図に示した(なお、アポリボプロテインEの生産量は、特開昭61-285990号公報の実施例1に記載の方法及びSDS-PAGEによって調べた。)

第1図から明らかなように、本発明の方法に従い、プロテアーゼ阻害剤を含む培地で培養することによりアポリボプロテインEの生産量が増大する。

4 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は、アポリボプロテインE産生組換えCHO細胞をプロテアーゼ阻害剤含有培地で培養した時のアポリボプロテインE生産の経時変化を要する図である。なお、図中の記号の要する意味は以下の通りである。

- ： プロテアーゼ阻害剤無添加 (コントロール)
- △—△： 牛胎児血清由来プロテアーゼ阻害剤(前記(a))150ng/ml

い。

(発明の効果)

本発明に従えば、培養中に目的蛋白質が分解されることがないので生産性が向上(培地利用効率が向上)し、しかも、血清由来の夾雑蛋白質及び目的蛋白質の分解物等が殆んど含まれていないので目的蛋白質を容易に精製できる。

(実施例)

以下に実施例を挙げて更に本発明を具体的に説明する。

実施例1

特開昭61-285990号公報の実施例1に記載された方法に従って作製されたアポリボプロテインE産生組換えCHO細胞(5×10^4 cells/ml)を5%牛血清を含有するe-RDF(pH7.4)培地5ml中、5%CO₂雰囲気下、37℃で培養増殖した。培養約5日後、コンフルエントな状態に達した時点で、各種プロテアーゼ阻害剤を含む無血清培地であるe-RDF(pH7.4±0.2)培地5mlに移し換え、更に

- ： 牛胎児血清由来プロテアーゼ阻害剤(前記(a))250ng/ml
- ： 同上 500ng/ml
- ▲： ペンズアミジン 3mM
- ★： メシル酸ナフエスタット 0.1mM

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ほか1名

図 1

